

ABRAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1938.

Springfield House,

Abram, near Wigan.

June, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the

Abram Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres: 1,984.

Population—Census, 1931: 6,660; Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1938: 6,129.

Number of inhabited houses—(a) Census, 1931: 1,458;
(b) End of 1938 according to rate books: 1,573.

Rateable value: £20,872.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £77.819.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING THE CHIEF INDUSTRIES CARRIED ON IN THE AREA.

Abram is a colliery district. The houses are of the working-class type. Male and female residents find employment at the collieries. Many females are employed in neighbouring mills and factories.

Extent of unemployment: January to February, 35.9 per cent.; March to April, 41.4 per cent.; May, 43.9 per cent.; June, 50.9 per cent.; July, 34.2 per cent.; August to September, 49.3 per cent.; October to December, 42.6 per cent.

The influence of any particular occupation on public health: The miners suffer from bronchitis, nystagmus, rheumatism, and various bodily injuries rendering them incapable of work for long periods.

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment: None.

Any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the year: None.

Any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health: Smoke-laden atmosphere affects the general health of the inhabitants.

Any evidence, statistical or otherwise, that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults: None.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.—	Total		Males		Females
Legitimate	81	...	40	...	41
Illegitimate	1	...	—	...	1
	—		—		—
Total	82	...	40	...	42
	—		—		—

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—
13.3.

STILL BIRTHS.—	Total		Males		Females
	4	...	1	...	3
	—		—		—

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)—46.

DEATHS.	Total		Males		Females
	65	...	39	...	26
	—		—		—

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—
10.6*.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.—

Puerperal Sepsis	nil
Other Puerperal Causes	nil
	—
Total	nil
	—

Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: nil.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.—

All infants per 1,000 live births	60
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births	61
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	nil
DEATHS FROM CANCER (all ages)	7
DEATHS FROM MEASLES (all ages)	nil
DEATHS FROM WHOOPING COUGH (all ages)	nil
DEATHS FROM DIARRHOEA (under 2 years of age) ...	nil

	Per 1,000 of Estimated Population				Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under one year per 1,000 Live Births
	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death Rate from Tuber- culosis of Respir- atory System	Death Rate from Cancer	Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	
Mean of 5 years,							
1933/1937 ...	16.2	11.7	0.42	1.16	3.87	3.68	74
Year 1937	15.5	11.5	0.31	0.79	—	—	40
Year 1938	13.3	10.6*	0.16	1.14	—	—	60
Increase or decrease in 1938 on 5 years average							
1933/1937 ...	—2.9	—1.1	—0.26	—0.02	—3.87	—3.68	—14
Previous year	—2.2	—0.9	—0.15	+0.35	—	—	+20
* 1938 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor 1.23) = 13.0 per 1,000.							

CAUSES OF DEATHS.—

	Females	Males
Other Digestive Diseases	1	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	2
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth	—	1
Senility	2	4
Other defined diseases	2	2
Ill-defined	1	1
Diabetes	—	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	2	3
Heart Disease	3	4
Other Circulatory Diseases	5	—
Bronchitis	3	3
Pneumonias	2	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	1
Appendicitis	—	1
Diphtheria	—	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	—	1
Cancer	3	4
	26	39

AGE INCIDENCE.—

	Total	Males	Females
Under one year	5	4	1
3—4 years	1	1	—
4—5 years	1	1	—
5—10 years	3	2	1
15—20 years	1	1	—
20—30 years	1	1	—
40—50 years	6	4	2
50—65 years	19	11	8
65 years and over	28	14	14
	<hr/> 65	<hr/> 39	<hr/> 26
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

There have been seven deaths from Cancer during 1938 as compared with five deaths in 1937. The organs affected were: Stomach—1 male, 1 female; Throat—1 male; Ovary, 1 female; Colon—1 male; Gall bladder—1 male; Spine, 1 female.

Deaths from Cancer in each Ward.—

	Males	Females
Abram Brow	2	0
Bamfurlong	2	1
Bickershaw	0	1
Plank Lane	0	1
	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 3
	<hr/>	<hr/>

WARD DEATH RATE PER 1,000 OF THE ESTIMATED POPULATION.—

	Death Rate	Males	Females	Total
Abram Brow	8.8	11	5	16
Bamfurlong	12.0	14	10	24
Bickershaw	11.7	7	8	15
Plank Lane	9.5	7	3	10
		<hr/> 39	<hr/> 26	<hr/> 65
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Causes of deaths in infants under one year of age with Ward Distribution.—

Abram Brow: nil.

Bamfurlong: 3 deaths—2 pneumonias, 1 prematurity.

Bickershaw: 1 death—pneumonia.

Plank Lane: 1 death—bronchitis.

This gives an Infantile Mortality of Nil for Abram Brow; 115 for Bamfurlong; 43 for Bickershaw; and 77 for Plank Lane.

There has been one death more in infants this year compared with last year.

WARD BIRTHS.—

	Birth Rate	Males	Females	Total
Abram Brow	11.0	10	10	20
Bamfurlong	13.0	14	12	26
Bickershaw	18.0	8	15	23
Plank Lane	12.3	8	5	13

	Pneumonias	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia
Abram Brow ...	7	4	4	—	—
Bamfurlong ...	8	2	2	—	—
Bickershaw ...	3	2	5	—	1
Plank Lane	—	2	11	2	—

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN EACH WARD
PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION.—

Abram Brow	8.2
Bamfurlong	6.0
Bickershaw	8.6
Plank Lane	14.3

The prevalence of diphtheria in the Plank Lane Ward accounts for the high incidence there as compared with the other wards.

WARD DISTRIBUTION OF TUBERCULOSIS CASES AND
DEATHS.—

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- respiratory		Respiratory		Non- respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Abram Brow ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Bamfurlong ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bickershaw ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Plank Lane ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0

WARD RATES TABULATED.

	Estimated Population	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Infantile Mortality	Infectious Diseases Incidence
Abram Brow ...	1,817	8.8	11.0	—	8.2
Bamfurlong ...	1,991	12.0	13.0	115	6.0
Bickershaw ...	1,272	11.7	18.0	43	8.6
Plank Lane ...	1,049	9.5	12.3	77	14.3

Unusual and Excessive Mortality: Nil.

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health: A. R. Erskine.

Remuneration (including bonus, if any) as M.O.H. at 31/12/1938: £150.

Is he a whole or part-time officer of the local authority? Part time. Any other public appointments held by him? Public Vaccinator, Public Assistance Medical Officer, M.O. of Child Welfare Clinic.

Is he in private practice? Yes.

Sanitary Inspector: Henry Allen.

Remuneration (including bonus, if any) as S.I. at 31/12/38: £240. Whole or part time as S.I.: Part time. Other appointments held (if any): Surveyor.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector: Ernest Churchward.

Remuneration (including bonus, if any) as S.I. at 31/12/38: £220*. Whole or part time as Assistant S.I.: Part time. Other appointments held (if any): Assistant Surveyor.

* Combined Salary.

Any other Specialised Inspectors (e.g., Food Inspector): Nil

Other Public Health Officers, such as Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Health Visitors, Special Nurses, Dental Surgeon, etc.: Nil.

Ambulance facilities for:—

- (a) Infectious cases: Motor provided by Leigh Joint Hospital.
- (b) Non-infectious and accident cases: Motor provided by Joint Ambulance, Abram, Hindley and Ince.
- (c) Maternity patients: Motor provided by Leigh Joint Hospital or Joint Ambulance as required.

Comment briefly on adequacy of ambulance service or services in the area, and on the arrangements made for their co-ordination: Very efficient.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—

Nature of arrangements made by the local authority in the district for (a) General nursing: Abram Nursing Association employ one whole-time district nurse; (b) Nursing of infectious diseases, e.g., measles, etc.: District nurse in certain cases as permitted by M.O.H. and advice given by Health Visiting Nurse of the County Child Welfare Service.

Total amount of financial assistance given by local authority to voluntary associations: £30 per annum to Nursing Association.

Treatment Centres and Clinics (including Clinics solely for diagnosis and consultation): County Council is the authority.

Is there in your district:—

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre (Consultation and treatment): St. John's St., Abram, Wednesdays, 2 p.m.

Antenatal Clinic: St. John St., Abram, Wednesdays, 2 p.m.

Day Nursery: No. School Clinic: No. Orthopædic Clinic: No. Artificial Light Clinic: No.

Hospitals in the district: (a) Public: Nil; (b) Voluntary: Nil.

Is there any Institutional provision in your area for:—

Unmarried mothers: No. Illegitimate infants: No.

Homeless children: No.

Health Education.—

Any action taken by the local authority during the year in regard to the publication of information or dissemination of knowledge relating to health or disease and the importance of early treatment? (e.g., health week, special lectures, etc.): No.

Give a brief description of special efforts made locally in connection with National Health Campaign to secure a wider use of the health services: Pamphlets describing Health Services were distributed to each house in district.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply—

Authority from which supply obtained: Liverpool Corporation.

Source of supply: Rivington Aqueduct.

Nature of supply (e.g., moorland, deep wells, etc.): Received in bulk.

Particulars of any new sources of public supply: Nil.

Is supply of district satisfactory? (a) in quality: Yes; (b) in quantity: Yes.

Constant or intermittent: Constant.

Approx. No. of dwelling-houses with piped supplies (public and private): (a) direct from mains: 1,573; (b) by stand pipe: Nil.

Possibilities of contamination: Open storage reservoir.

Action taken in respect of any form of contamination: Regular supervision and cleaning of reservoir banks.

Any liability to plumbo-solvent action: Action of soft water on untinned lead pipe.

If piped supply, has the water been examined during the year? Bacteriological examination: No. 1; Results: "These results are satisfactory." Chemical analyses: No.: 1; Results: Total hardness 5.0. Action on lead (24 hours): 0.37. Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours: 0.029.

Approx. No. of dwelling-houses supplied from wells, springs, streams, etc.: Nil.

Any insufficiency, and where: None.

Nature of extensions (if any) during the year: 150 yards of 3in. cast iron pipe.

Drainage and Sewerage—

Sewage disposal works, method of treatment: Septic tanks and triple contact beds.

Any extension or improvement during the year with regard to works or sewerage system: None.

Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system, and reason therefor: None but isolated houses.

Action taken—Drain testing, flushing, etc.: Systematic cleaning of manholes. Sewers flushed occasionally and drains tested by application of smoke machine.

Rivers and Streams.—

Action taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams: Regular inspection of streams.

Sources and nature of pollution: None.

Have any new works been established (such as artificial silk works, cheese manufactories, etc.), and is there any resultant river pollution? No.

Closet Accommodation at end of 1938.—

Privy middens:—No. of middens, 37. No. of closets attached to these middens: 51.

Does this system still exist in populous and closely built centres? Yes, partly.

No. of pail closets: 18. No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens): 38. No. of movable ashbins: 1,482.

No. of houses on water carriage system: 1,500. No. of fresh water closets: 1,698. No. of waste water closets: Nil.

Conversions.—

	During year 1938	During five years 1933—1937.
No. of privy closets—		
To fresh w.c.'s	3	705
To waste w.c.'s	nil	nil
To pails, etc.	nil	nil
No. of pail closets—		
To fresh w.c.'s	12	nil
To waste w.c.'s	nil	nil
No. of waste w.c.'s to fresh w.c.'s	nil	nil
No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	48	952

Is there any definite scheme at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets? Scheme in progress for the conversion of all privies and pail closets.

Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion? Yes. If so, how much? Half cost.

Public Cleansing—

(a) The method of collecting dry house refuse: Contents of all bins collected weekly by special motor refuse collection vehicle. Dry ashpit refuse collected at intervals of three or four weeks.

(b) The method of collecting refuse from earth closets and privies: Emptied and contents removed every three or four weeks by motor and horse carts.

(c) The method of disposing of dry house refuse: Filling up depressions on agricultural land and then covered with soil.

(d) The method of disposing of refuse from earth closets and privies: As above. Excreta part is utilised by farmers on land to be ploughed and cultivated.

(e) The method of cleansing cesspools: Scooped into a special iron tumbler cart.

(f) Arrangements for the disposal of cesspool contents: Used by farmers on land to be ploughed and cultivated.

If a destructor is provided, state situation: None provided.

State whether public cleansing is carried out by sanitary authority, contract, or occupiers of houses? By sanitary authority.

Any extension or improvement during the year in the arrangements: Fixed ashpits have been substituted by movable ashbins. Standardisation of dustbins introduced under Public Health Act, 1936.

Are motor vehicles used? Yes, Karrier Bantam.

If privy middens exist, are they emptied by day or night? By day.

Does the Sanitary Inspector supervise the scavenging? Yes. Sanitary Inspections during 1938.—

No of premises visited: 901.

Defects or nuisances—No. discovered: 341; No. abated: 297.

No. of notices served—Informal: 44; Statutory: 5.

Legal proceedings: Nil.

Shops and Offices.—

Particulars of any action taken under provisions of:

- (a) Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences: All shops in district inspected and found satisfactory.
- (b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e., ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc.: Nil.

Camping Sites.—

- (a) No. of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1938: Nil.
- (b) No. of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by local authority under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936: Nil.
- (c) Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, 1938: Nil.

Smoke Abatement.—

Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement: None.

No. of factory and works chimneys in the district: Three.

No. of observations: 2. No. of legal proceedings taken and result: Nil.

Particulars of any co-operative action with industry: None.

What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke: Three minutes.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—

Brief particulars of any:

- (a) Public swimming baths or pools: None.
- (b) Privately-owned swimming baths or pools open to public: None.
- (c) Action taken to ensure the satisfactory condition of the water: None.

Eradication of bed bugs.—

Particulars of action taken during 1938—

No. of houses found to be infested: (a) Council houses: Nil;
Other houses: 5.

No. of houses disinfested: (a) Council houses: Nil; (b) Other houses: 5.

Methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs: All wood moulds (architraves, picture rails, skirtings, etc.) taken off, floor boards partially removed or loosened and fumigated with "Fumoids."

State name of fumigant and/or insecticide used, and efficiency thereof: "Fumoids"; very efficient.

Methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to council houses: Fumigated with "Fumoids."

Is work of disinfestation carried out by local authority or by a contractor? By local authority.

Measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing: Disinfestation supervised by Sanitary Inspector and verbal advice given to tenants.

Schools.—

(a) Sanitary condition: Fair.

(b) Water supply: Town supply. Is it satisfactory? Yes.

Offensive Trades.—

No. of premises: Nil.

Workshops and Workplaces.—

No. on register: 9. What is their condition? Good.

Common Lodging-houses.—

No. on register: Nil.

Houses let in lodgings.—

No. on register: Nil.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.—

Action taken: Periodical inspection. Action required: None.

Date of byelaws: 26th April, 1916. Are they adequate? Yes.

Underground Sleeping Rooms. Any need for regulations? No.

Canal Boats:—

Number inspected: 18. Number of infringements of Acts: 1. Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.—

No. of premises in district on which rag flock is manufactured, sold or used: None.

Notable sanitary improvements during 1938.—

Conversion of pail closets.

Chief sanitary requirements of district.—

Reconstruction of sewers in Abram and Bamfurlong.

Improved or new sewage disposal works.

Completion of privy conversion scheme.

Paving of school yards.

Private street works and paving of back passages.

Provision of public conveniences.

4.—HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b): 4.

(i) By the local authority: Nil.

(ii) By other local authorities: Nil.

(iii) By other bodies or persons: 4.

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:

(i) By the local authority (unclued under (a) (i) above): Nil.

(ii) By other bodies (included under (a) (iii) above): Nil.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts): 182.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose: 217.
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932: 16.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose: 38.
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation: 46.

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers: 46.

3. Action under statutory powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs: 1.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By owners: 1.
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners: Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied: 16.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By owners: 16.
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners: Nil.

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made: Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders: Nil.

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made: Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit: Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding.—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year: 15.

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein: 16.

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein: 112.

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year: Nil.

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year: 6.

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases: 36.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

1. General observations as to housing conditions, including the standard of houses, the prevalent types, age and approximate numbers and general soundness of the several types—any information as to prevailing forms of defects and of prevailing bad conditions resulting from overcrowding:

Practically the whole of the houses are of the working-class type and approximately 40—50 years old. Continued subsidence affects the property throughout the district in varying degrees and causes defective roofs, walls, floors, and in many cases the drainage systems, and private development is therefore considerably prejudiced.

Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the district: Nil.

2. Sufficiency of supply of houses.

(a) Extent of shortage (if any): New houses are still required to abate overcrowding where the equivalent number of persons is more than seven (approximately ten cases). Many applications for Council houses are in hand from persons resident inside and outside the township. Available sites are very restricted.

(b) Particulars of any housing scheme in hand or contemplated: In the five years programme of capital expenditure submitted to the Ministry of Health, the Council included the provision of 45 houses (i.e., 15 each year for the next three years).

(c) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future: No change in population has taken place or is anticipated in the near future.

(d) Any special difficulties in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses: Practically the whole of the district is affected by mining subsidence in some degree, thus restricting the availability of sites for the erection of dwelling-houses. Only small areas can be chosen and these have some risk.

3. Overcrowding.

(a) Number of cases of overcrowding in houses owned by the local authority which have been relieved during 1938: Nil.

(b) Number of cases of overcrowding which have been relieved in the course of slum clearance operations: Nil.

(c) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding: Nil.

(d) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding, e.g., causes—how far it is due to inability to pay the rents of available houses, etc.: Owing to small incomes many families are unable to pay the rent of larger houses.

4. Fitness of houses.

(a) Difficulties found in action under the Public Health Acts or under the Housing Acts: Due to prolonged unemployment rent arrears have accrued and property owners only carry out voluntarily essential repairs. Large scale repairs have to be suspended for periods to allow for final settling of the property.

(b) No. of houses which have not an adequate internal water supply: Nil.

(c) No. of houses which have no separate water closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation: 7.

5. Action taken during the year regarding:—

Clearance Areas:

No. of areas represented: Nil.

No. of areas cleared: Nil.

Improvement areas:

No. of areas represented: Nil.

No. of houses demolished: Nil.

5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(1) Milk Supply.—Action taken with regard to—

The administration of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926: Supervision has been maintained over dairies and cowsheds, and advice given to producers and employees in an endeavour to produce a clean milk supply. The Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938—

No. of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) issued by the local authority during 1938 in respect of—

“Tuberculin Tested” milk:

(i) Bottling: Nil.; (ii) Distribution: Nil.

“Accredited” milk:

(i) Bottling: Nil; (ii) Distribution: Nil.

No. of licences issued in respect of “Pasteurised” milk:

Pasteurising plants: Nil; Retail distributors: 2.

Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation: Nil.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk-shops—

Are they periodically inspected? Yes. How often? Not less than once per month.

What is their condition? Good.

Has any owner undertaken (voluntarily) structural alterations or improvements to farm buildings, e.g., re-modeling of cowsheds? No.

Farms.—

No. of dairy farms: 15. Approximate number of cows in the district: 136.

Cowkeepers.—

No. of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms): 14.

No. of inspections during the year: 207.

Dairymen or purveyors of milk (other than cowkeepers).—

No. of dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers):
1.

Action taken by the local authority as to—

(i) Tuberculous milk—

No. of samples submitted for biological test: 9.
Positive: 2; Negative: 7.

(ii) Bacteriological examinations—

Standard adopted: Methylene blue test.
No. of samples: 11. No. satisfactory: 10. No. unsatisfactory: 1.

(iii) Sediment tests—

No. of samples: Nil.

(2) Meat and other foods.—

(a) Action taken with regard to meat and other foods, including inspection of meat, slaughterhouses, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared: Inspection has been made throughout the year. All carcasses slaughtered at the slaughterhouse have been examined and intermittent visits made at various times.

Number of legal proceedings and result: Nil.

(b) Inspection of meat—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle (excluding Cows).	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	8	65	5	—	48
Number inspected	8	63	5	—	48
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	14	—	—	1
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis	—	22.2	—	—	2
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned...	—	1	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	16	—	—	1
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	—	27	—	—	2

- (c) Has a public slaughterhouse been provided? No.
Private slaughterhouses—No. registered: 1; No. licensed:
Nil.

Are they conducted satisfactorily? Yes.

(d) If a meat marketing scheme under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is in force, give particulars with regard to action taken thereunder: None.

(e) Food poisoning (including suspected cases).—Action taken if any: None.

(f) Bakehouses.—Number: 4; Condition: Fair.

(3) Adulteration, etc.—If the local authority is a Food and Drugs Authority, state action taken in respect of—

(i) Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928: Nil.

(ii) Other Food Acts or Regulations: Nil.

Name of laboratory at which analyses are carried out:
County Analyst, Preston.

(4) Chemical and bacteriological examination of food (excluding milk).—No. and nature of analyses during the year: Nil.

(5) Nutrition.—Indicate steps to increase knowledge of public on the subject and to bring to their minds the importance of adequate nutrition, especially for children, by means of lectures, films, etc.

Give particulars of any special investigation which has been made on the subject of nutrition: Nil.

(6) Shell-fish (Molluscan).—Give particulars of any shell-fish beds or layings in the district (specifying the kinds of shell-fish): Nil.

Action taken under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934: Nil.

or the Public Health (Cleansing of Shell-fish) Act, 1932: Nil.

6.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation provided or available:—

For smallpox: Leigh Joint Hospital. No. of beds: 18*.

Where situate: Astley near Manchester.

Is the hospital used by "agreement" or "arrangement"? (state nature thereof): Joint. Leigh Joint Hospital Order, 1935.

Are any retaining fees paid? No.

Or, if a joint hospital, is the district a constituent authority?
Yes.

For other infectious diseases: Leigh Joint Hospital.

No. of beds: 112*.

Where situate: Astley, near Manchester.

Is the hospital used by "agreement" or "arrangement"?
(state nature thereof): Joint. The Leigh Joint Hospital
Order, 1935.

Are any retaining fees paid? No.

Or, if a joint hospital, is the district a constituent authority?
Yes.

Are patients required to contribute towards cost of treatment? No.

Cost of hospital treatment for infectious disease.—

Cost per patient, year ended 31st March, 1938:

£13 18s. 3d.

Has any action been taken or advised with the object of securing that the hospital accommodation available is utilised to the best advantage? Accommodation is sufficient and is used to the best advantage.

Has action been taken to shorten the period of stay of uncomplicated cases of scarlet fever or to replace hospital treatment in suitable instances by nursing and supervision at home? Uncomplicated and mild cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria are, if possible, treated at home if isolation is efficient.

* Allowing 144 square feet of floor space per bed.

Have any new methods been adopted for the selection of individual cases for which admission to hospital is most imperative? No. Or any new decision as to the admission of cases of diseases such as measles or whooping cough? No.

Infectious diseases generally.—

Review briefly the prevalence of notifiable diseases during the year 1938, and give any noteworthy facts as to the source or spread of infection: Diphtheria of the pharyngeal type has been more prevalent than usual and spread has been by contact notably at home. Otherwise there has been no increase of infectious diseases, and no cases of cerebro-spinal fever have occurred.

Notes on the supply and prompt use of:

- (a) Diphtheria anti-toxin: Provided by local authority free of charge and can be obtained at any hour.

Are supplies readily available? Yes. If so, where kept? At home of M.O.H.

- (b) Anti-meningococcus serum: No supply kept in the district.

Are any other vaccines or sera supplied free to medical practitioners? No.

Any observed relation between various forms of streptococcal infection (scarlet fever, sore throat occurring without a rash, and puerperal fever): No.

Influenza.—Observations on any special inquiries undertaken in connection with epidemics: Nil.

Pneumonia, malaria, and dysentery.—Experience in regard to these diseases: Nil.

Other diseases which have received special attention, e.g., locally contracted anthrax, epidemic jaundice, rheumatic fever, undulant fever, glandular fever, psittacosis? Nil.

If any of the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable in your district, state for what period:—

Measles: No.

Whooping cough: No.

Diarrhoea (under 2 years): No.

Chicken-pox; No.

Any others: Nil.

Any local action taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation? None taken.

Discovery of and action taken in regard to (a) contacts, (b) return cases, (c) carrier cases: Nil.

The extent to which school intimations of disease are utilised: M.O.H. supplied each week with a list of causes of absence due to illness.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations.—At which laboratory are specimens examined? Wigan Infirmary Pathological Department.

No. of specimens examined in 1938—

(a) Diphtheria: 12.

No. of times School Closure adopted during 1938 for—

Scarlet fever: Nil; Whooping cough: Nil; Diphtheria: Nil;

Chicken-pox: Nil; Measles: Nil; Influenza: Nil.

Any other diseases (specify same): Nil.

Number of reports made during 1938 under Article 17 (7) of Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935: Nil.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR, 1938.

“Notified” cases **only** to be included.

Notifiable Diseases	Total Cases at all Ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.										Total Deaths 65 and over	Total Cases removed to Hospital from district	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district
		Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45			
Scarlet fever	10	—	—	—	1	2	4	3	—	—	—	—	6	—
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	22	—	—	1	—	3	10	1	1	6	—	—	19	1
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	18	3	1	—	2	1	1	1	—	2	2	4	1	10
Puerperal pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Totals	53	3	1	1	3	6	15	5	1	10	2	5	1	12
													26	1

Immunisation.—

(1) Diphtheria.—Specify any action taken to provide artificial immunisation:

(a) in hospitals, residential institutions or schools: Nil.

(b) at special clinics or day schools: Nil.

(c) otherwise than (a) or (b): Nil.

Is immunisation material supplied free to medical practitioners? No.

No. of children immunised during the year:

(i) pre-school children: Nil.

(ii) school children: Nil.

(iii) adults: Nil.

Have any post-Schick tests been undertaken? No.

(2) Scarlet fever.—Specify any action taken to provide artificial immunisation: Nil.

(a) in hospitals, residential institutions or schools: Nil.

(b) at special clinics or day schools: Nil.

(c) otherwise than (a) or (b): Nil.

Is immunisation material supplied free to medical practitioners? No.

No. of children immunised during the year: Nil.

Disinfection after infectious disease:—

No. of houses disinfected during 1938: 37. Method (state disinfectant used): Sulphur dioxide.

Are houses disinfected after (a) pulmonary tuberculosis: Yes; (b) measles: No.

Apparatus used for clothing, bedding, etc. (steam or otherwise): Steam.

No. of articles disinfected: 371.

Where is apparatus situated? Park Lane, Abram.

If apparatus at hospital is available, is it used for the disinfection of clothing, bedding, etc., of patients not removed to the hospital? Yes.

Disinfestation.—

What arrangements exist for the disinfestation of verminous, etc., persons? None.

In how many instances has this been undertaken? None.

Cancer.—Any observations as to the prevalence of cancer? No marked increase on previous years.

Particulars of any action taken to impart to the public information regarding cancer (i.e., facilities available, etc.): None.

Particulars of any alteration, improvements or other developments in the availability of facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in the area which have been effected during the year (whether by local authority or voluntary hospitals): No alteration from previous year.

Are the present facilities adequate? Yes.

Is any use made of facilities provided by National Radium Centres? Yes. Cases are admitted readily to the Christie Institute, Manchester.

Any local investigation or action undertaken on the lines suggested in the series of Ministry's circulars on cancer? Nil.

Prevention of Blindness.—Action taken (if any) under section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes: No.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods.	Non-Respiratory.				Non-Respiratory.			
	New Cases.		Deaths.		New Cases.		Deaths.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
5—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45—	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
55—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
	0		1		1		0	

What is the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths? All cases had been previously notified.

In your opinion, is the notification of tuberculosis in your district efficient? Yes.

Has any action been taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify? No.

Is there any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district? No.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Any action taken under these Regulations relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade: No action taken.

Public Health Act, 1936.—

Any action taken under section 172, Public Health Act, 1936: No action taken.

7.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Maternity and Child Welfare work is carried out by the County Council. There is an army hut situated behind the Council Offices where the child welfare clinic is held every Wednesday at 2 p.m.

Medical advice is given to mothers and babes. Necessitous cases (e.g., ante-natal cases, nursing mothers and babes) are provided with free milk, etc.

Specialist advice and treatment in all disabilities affecting babes is afforded by the County Council specialist staff. The same facilities are open to expectant and nursing mothers.

There is a health visitor who gives advice in the homes and helps in the nursing of certain illnesses.

Ophthalmia neonatorum: None notified.

Signed,

A. R. ERSKINE,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the Abram Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present the following summary of the work carried out in the Sanitary Department for the year ended December 31st, 1938:—

Stopped drains opened and cleaned	62
Drains relaid and renewed	7
Dustbins and pails renewed	33
Water closets repaired	31
Paving back yards and round gullies	4
Defective waste pipes and vent shafts repaired...	24
Defective spouts, roofs, etc., repaired	49
Washing boilers and ovens repaired	3
Defective windows and doors repaired	18
Accumulations removed	1
Houses disinfested	3
Defective plaster repaired	7
Dampness abated	4
Defective floors repaired	11
Defective chimneys and flues	2
Defective sinks and wash bowls	27
Dangerous building	11
	<hr/>
	297

PRIVY CONVERSIONS.

During the year three privies and 12 pail closets have been converted into fresh water closets.

ASHPIT ACCOMMODATION.

At forty-eight houses in the district, movable galvanised iron dustbins have been substituted for fixed ashpits.

REMOVAL OF NIGHTSOIL AND OTHER REFUSE.

Ashpits emptied	740
Bins and pails cleared	76,400
Total number of loads removed:—	
Motor	884
Cart	586

Approximate weight of refuse removed ... 1,720 tons

SLAUGHTER HOUSE.

These premises have been in constant use and kept in order. Regular and special inspections have been made.

The following animals have been slaughtered in the district during the year for human consumption:—

Bulls	8
Cows	65
Calves	5
Pigs	48
	<hr/>
	126

The amount of food condemned or surrendered during 1938 as unfit for human consumption was:—

	lbs.
Tubercular	1366
Non-tubercular	486
	<hr/>
	1852
	<hr/>

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Summary of cowkeepers, milk purveyors, etc.—

Resident cowkeepers who act as milk purveyors	14
Milk purveyors only	1
Pasteurised milk purveyors	3
Accredited milk producers	2

The condition of the cowsheds and dairies is very satisfactory, and a high standard of cleanliness with regard to the cattle, utensils, etc., has been maintained.

Eleven samples of milk were submitted during the year to the Bacteriologist for methylene blue test, with the following results:—

No. satisfactory, 11; No. unsatisfactory, 1.

Nine samples of milk were tested for the presence or otherwise of tubercle with the following results:—

Positive: 2; Negative: 7.

Two cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order.

CANAL BOATS.

Eighteen canal boats were inspected during 1938 and one infringement of the Acts was discovered.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The following premises are situate within the district:—

Factories.—

Blacksmith and Wheelwright	1
Joiner and Builder	1
	<hr/>
	2

Workshops.—

Tinsmiths	1
Cloggers and Shoemakers	3
Boat Builder	1
Dressmaker	1
Motor Repairs	2
	<hr/>
	8

Workplaces.—

Dressmaker	1
	<hr/>
	1
Bakehouses	4
	<hr/>
	15

DISINFECTION.

Thirty-seven houses were fumigated with sulphur dioxide after infectious diseases, and 371 articles passed through the steam disinfectors.

Five cases of disinfection have been carried out.

SCHOOLS.

There are four elementary schools in the area.

Each school is supplied with the town's water for drinking, washing and flushing purposes.

The sanitary condition of all the schools can be classified as fairly satisfactory.

NEW PROPERTY.

Four new houses have been erected by private enterprise during the year.

I beg to be, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

H. ALLEN,

Sanitary Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1938, FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF
ABRAM,

on the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901,
in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1. Inspections of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or Inspectors of Nuisances) :—			No. of Inspections
Factories with mechanical power			2
Factories without mechanical power			1
Other premises			18
Total Inspections			21
Defects found—	Found	Remedied	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

NATIONAL RAT WEEK, NOVEMBER 7th—12th, 1938.

A circular letter was sent to all persons having the control of premises liable to infestation by rats and their liability under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, was pointed out.

One of the Council's workmen was engaged all the week laying rat baits and inspecting all the Council's properties for signs of infestation, and I am sure his efforts have resulted in the extermination of many rodents. Supplies of rat baits are always available on application to the Council Offices, Abram.

